

## **Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA**

## **§ 97.13**

### **§ 97.7 [Reserved]**

### **§ 97.8 Specimen requirements.**

(a) The applicant may be required by the examiner to furnish representative specimens of the variety, or its flower, fruit, or seeds, in a quantity and at a specified stage of growth, as may be necessary to verify the statements in the application. Such specimens shall be packed and forwarded in conformity with instructions furnished by the examiner. If the applicant requests the examiner to inspect plants in the field before a final decision is made, all such inspection costs shall be borne by the applicant by payment of fees sufficient to reimburse the Office for all costs, including travel, per diem or subsistence, and salary.

(b) Plant specimens submitted in support of an application shall not be removed from the Office except by an employee of the Office or other person authorized by the Secretary.

(c) Plant specimens submitted to the Office shall, except as provided below, and upon request, be returned to the applicant at his or her expense after the specimens have served their intended purpose. The Commissioner, upon a finding of good cause, may require that certain specimens be retained in the Office for indefinite periods of time. Specimens which are not returned or not retained as provided above shall be destroyed.

### **§ 97.9 Drawings and photographs.**

(a) Drawings or photographs submitted with an application shall disclose the distinctive characteristics of the variety.

(b) Drawings or photographs shall be in color when color is a distinguishing characteristic of the variety, and the color shall be described by use of Nickerson's or other recognized color chart.

(c) Drawings should be sent flat, or may be sent in a suitable mailing tube, in accordance with instructions furnished by the Commissioner.

(d) Drawings or photographs submitted with an application shall be retained by the Office as part of the application file.

### **§ 97.10 Parts of an application to be filed together.**

All parts of an application, including exhibits, should be submitted to the Office together, otherwise, each part shall be accurately and clearly referenced to the application.

### **§ 97.11 Application accepted and filed when received.**

(a) An application, if materially complete when initially submitted, shall be accepted and filed to await examination.

(b) If any part of an application is so incomplete, or so defective that it cannot be handled as a completed application for examination, as determined by the Commissioner, the applicant will be notified. The application will be held a maximum of 3 months for completion. Applications not completed at the end of the prescribed period will be considered abandoned. The application fee in such cases will not be refunded.

[58 FR 42435, Aug. 9, 1993, as amended at 60 FR 17189, Apr. 4, 1995]

### **§ 97.12 Number and filing date of an application.**

(a) Applications shall be numbered and dated in sequence in the order received in the Office. Applicants will be informed in writing as soon as practicable of the number and effective filing date of the application.

(b) An applicant may claim the benefit of the filing date of a prior foreign application in accordance with section 55 of the Act. A certified copy of the foreign application shall be filed upon request made by the examiner. If a foreign application is not in the English language, an English translation, certified as accurate by a sworn or official translator, shall be submitted with the application.

### **§ 97.13 When the owner is deceased or legally incapacitated.**

In case of the death of the owner or if the owner is legally incapacitated, the legal representative (executor, administrator, or guardian) or heir or assignee of the deceased owner may sign as the applicant. If an applicant dies between the filing of his or her application and the granting of a certificate thereon, the certificate may be issued